REMARKS

I. Status

The Office Action indicates claims 16-20 to be pending in this Application. With this response, claims 16-20 are amended. No new matter has been added.

Claims 16-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mersky (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0037012).

Claims 16 and 20 are independent.

II. Amendment of Independent Claims 16 and 20

With this response, the Applicant amends independent claims 16 and 20. No new matter has been added.

The Applicant respectfully submits that Mersky fails, for example, to disclose, teach, or suggest:

"... acquiring <u>before shipment</u> of a terminal apparatus a host address of the terminal apparatus as connected to a first network;

acquiring owner information of the terminal apparatus;

acquiring a network address of a second network in accordance with the acquired owner information from a database storing the network address of the second network and the owner information of the terminal apparatus;

acquiring <u>after shipment</u> of the terminal apparatus, when a signal is transmitted from the terminal apparatus via the second network, a host address and a network address of a sending side included in the signal:

determining the host address of the terminal apparatus acquired <u>before shipment</u> of the terminal apparatus and the acquired network address of the second network to coincide

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with the host address and the network address acquired <u>after</u> <u>shipment</u> of the terminal apparatus; and

providing a service, via the Internet, to the terminal apparatus via the second network"

as set forth in claim 16 as amended herewith (emphasis added), and as similarly set forth in claim 20 as amended herewith.

In view of at least the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 16 and 20 at least with the amendments herewith, as well as those claims that depend therefrom, are in condition for allowance.

III. Additional Matters

The Applicant respectfully requests that confirmation of priority document certified copy receipt be provided.

IV. Dependent Claim Rejections

The Applicant does not believe it is necessary at this time to further address the rejections of the dependent claims as the Applicant believes that the foregoing places the independent claims in condition for allowance. The Applicant, however, reserves the right to further address those rejections in the future should such a response be deemed necessary and appropriate.

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CONCLUSION

The Applicant respectfully submits that this Application is in condition for allowance for which action is earnestly solicited.

If a telephone conference would facilitate prosecution of this Application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required for this response, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 504827, Order No. 1232-5170.

Furthermore, in the event that an extension of time is required, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to the above-noted Deposit Account and Order No.

Respectfully submitted,

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